

GAME REPORT

Home: CV Firebirds vs. Away: CGY Wranglers

Date: Oct 16, 2024 7:00PM PST

Pre-Game

The Wranglers split two games with Abbotsford Canucks to start the season. Both games were close with the Wranglers winning the second game in a shootout.

The Firebirds lost a close first game to the Condors last Friday. For all the coaching changes and a new mix of veterans and young players, the Firebirds were competitive.

Head-to-head: The Firebirds got the best of the Wranglers last season with a 6-2-0-0 record. The Wranglers and Firebirds faced off in the second round of the playoffs last season. The Firebirds took the series 3 games to 1. The Wranglers top goaltender has been promoted to the Calgary Flames so we will see what this season series brings.

1st Period

Firebirds got off to strong start and score the first PP goal of the season. The lead didn't last. With a bad pass in the defensive zone, Wranglers pounced and scored two minutes later. Wranglers took the lead with a power play goal that hopped in the air and fell behind the Firebirds goalie. Wranglers kept the pressure in the period, but the Firebirds found there footing again. Both teams exchanged chances the rest of the period.

2nd Period

No scoring in the period, but lots of chances for both sides. Both teams had grade A chances with break aways and bad turn overs. One lucky bounce of the puck could have made the difference. Firebirds had the only PP, but the Wranglers create havoc to create a shorthanded opportunity. When the Wranglers had the attack zone time, they had two players in front of the net to block out the Firebirds goalie. Something to see if the use in future matchups.

3rd Period

Within the first minute, the Wranglers push the puck up the ICE with numbers. With the puck behind the net, two Wranglers versus one Firebird where in the slot and the puck found the back of the net. Firebirds pressed the attack the rest of the period, but the Wranglers goalie staved off barrage of shots.

Post Game

A slow start for the Firebirds to open the season. The team continues to show a never give up attitude. They outshot the Wranglers, won more faceoffs by my calculation, and possibly had better of the attack zone time. Also, staying discipline by not taking too many penalties has also been noticeable in these first two games. Better choices with the puck is a theme carried over from last year to this year, but this is something that can be cleaned up as the season goes on. Capitalizing on the opportunities to score goals moving forward will be key. The Wranglers new goalie was sharp, and they played a little more physical. A solid win for their 3rd game of the season.

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd		Total
CGY Wranglers	2	0	1		3
CV Firebirds	1	0	0		1

Full game statistic can be found on the AHL site: <https://theahl.com/stats/game-center/1026505>

Team Game Stats:

	Wranglers	Firebirds
Shots	22	40
PP	1 / 2	1 / 2
PIM	4	4
SH	0	0

Face offs Win:

The following is an unofficial faceoff statistic. The AHL doesn't show faceoff wins on the score sheet. I am tracking this on my own so there is a margin of error.

	Wranglers	Firebirds
Faceoff Wins	20	37

The following is a breakdown of faceoff wins based on zone and player count.

Zone	Wranglers			Firebirds		
	ES	PP	PK	ES	PP	PK
Attack	4	0	0	12	1	0
Neutral	7	1	0	7	0	0
Defense	7	0	1	13	2	2

ES – Even Strength

PP – Power Play

PK – Penalty Kill